

Mrs. Dulles' Long Service Is Praised By Secretary Rusk

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Washington, Jan. 10. — The Dulles touch in United States foreign policy is bowing out for good with the retirement, about Jan. 25, of Mrs. Eleanor Lansing Dulles as a special assistant in the state department's bureau of intelligence and research.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk, in a personal note acknowledging Mrs. Dulles' pending retirement, told her she could be "justly proud of your accomplishments and contributions to the complex and ever-changing responsibilities of the Department of State."

"I am sure that in the years ahead you will continue to work for a better understanding of the processes and problems of international relations," he told Mrs. Dulles.

The German affairs expert is the third in the family to leave federal service in the last two and a half years. Her brother, John Foster Dulles, died just after resigning as secretary of state, in 1959, and another brother, Allen W. Dulles, retired last month as director of the Central Intelligence agency. Both had served under Democratic, as well as Republican presidents.

There were hints that Mrs. Dulles was leaving the department ahead of schedule. She had another three and a half years of service left before she reached the mandatory retirement age of 70, but talk inside the department indicated some groups wanted to divorce the Dulles name from foreign policy under President Kennedy.

Mrs. Dulles, though an expert on German and Austrian fiscal matters, had spent most of her recent time on the problems of under-developed nations, 40 of which she had visited on tours early in 1960.

Her next venture will be a tour of several major Latin American countries, but this will not be a governmental trip.

Mrs. Dulles is considering offers to lecture and write, as well as bids to join several business firms.

She is one of very few women to have achieved the personal rank of minister in the foreign service.

Mrs. Dulles stressed the need for a tough line on Berlin, and at times this brought her into conflict with other state department officials. There was even a division over her trip to South America, although it had the support of Robert Woodward, the assistant secretary of state for Latin American affairs.

In her letter of resignation to Secretary Rusk after "almost 20 years" in the state department, Mrs. Dulles expressed appreciation for having been able to serve the federal government and wished the department personnel the "strength to carry the heavy responsibility on your shoulders."

Secretary Rusk extended, "both personally and on behalf of the department, good wishes for the future and gratitude for the devoted service which you have rendered to the government for over 28 years, almost 20 of which have been spent in the department of state." He added, "You have participated fully in the family tradition of service to the United States which you have shared with your two distinguished brothers."

In an unusual gesture, Mr. Rusk ordered that the library facilities of the department remain open to Mrs. Dulles for any research project on which she might be embarked.

Among the monuments to her efforts on Berlin are the new Congress Hall, which is in active use, and a new medical center, which she urged as an honorary member of the Benjamin Franklin Foundation.

The only comment Mrs. Dulles has been willing to make on her surprise departure from the state department is that "even loyalty to most of the essentials of the policy of the new administration does not guarantee further opportunities for usefulness."

"Failure to protect the upper-level civil servant," she observed, means the government often "loses talent and experience."

A native of Watertown, N. Y., Mrs. Dulles now resides in the Washington suburb of McLean, Va., not far from C.I.A. headquarters. Prior to joining the government she did refugee relief work in France, served as an industrial employment manager, studied English industrial methods at the London School of Economics, taught economics for eight years at Simmons and Bryn Mawr colleges and the University of Pennsylvania and was a member of the industrial research department at the university's Wharton School of Business. She studied English unemployment insurance for President Hoover in 1931.

In 1936 she joined the Social Security board as director of financial research, but six years later joined the state department for a long and varied career starting with the post-war planning on international finance. Activities on the Marshall Plan, eight years of effort on the reconstruction of Berlin and its political and cultural relations earned for her the nickname "Mother of West Berlin."

Mrs. Dulles, a graduate of Bryn Mawr, holds degrees also from that institution, Radcliffe and Harvard colleges and honorary degrees and awards from seven other institutions and groups. Among her awards are the Carl Schurz-Steuken plaque for distinguished service in furthering German-American cultural relations, which she received in Berlin in 1957, and the Ernst Reuter medallion for service to Berlin, received